

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Please amend claims 41, 42, 46, 47, 52 and 54 as follows:

N¹
41. (Amended) A fusion protein comprising the immunogenic polypeptide of claim 53.

42. (Amended) The immunogenic polypeptide of claim 53 linked to a suitable carrier.

N²
46. (Amended) The immunogenic polypeptide of claim 57 wherein the polypeptide is linked to a disulfide/amide-forming agent.

47. (Amended) The immunogenic polypeptide of claim 57 wherein the polypeptide is linked to a thio-ether-forming agent.

N³
52. (Amended) An immunogenic composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the immunogenic polypeptide of claim 53.

N⁴
54. (Amended) The immunogenic polypeptide of claim 53, wherein
Xaa at position 1 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ala, Ser, Glu, Gln, Gly, His, Thr, Asp, Arg, Lys, Asn, and Val;
Xaa at position 3 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Tyr, Gln, Arg, His, Thr, Asn, Ile, Leu, and Ser;

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Xaa at position 8 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ala, Gln, Val, Ile, Asn, Thr, Ser, Lys, Glu, Arg, and His;

Xaa at position 14 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Asn, Arg, His, Lys, Ala, Tyr, Ser, Phe, Leu, Gln, and Thr;

Xaa at position 16 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Phe, Val, Ile, and Leu;

Xaa at position 17 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Val, Ala, Thr, Ser, and Pro;

Xaa at position 21 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Arg, Ser, Gly, Thr, Asn, Met, Ala, Leu, Thr, Gln, Asp, Lys, and Glu;

Xaa at position 22 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ser, Pro, Leu, Val, His, Arg, Tyr, Gln, Thr, and Ala;

Xaa at position 24 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Ala, Ser, and Pro; and

Xaa at position 27 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Asn, Asp, Lys, Arg, Thr, and Glu.

Please cancel claims 40, 45 and 48-51 without prejudice and without disclaimer and add the following new claims:

--55. (New) The immunogenic polypeptide of claim 42, wherein the carrier is diphtheria toxoid.

56. (New) The immunogenic composition of claim 52, wherein the carrier is diphtheria toxoid.

N⁵
ant

57. (New) The immunogenic polypeptide of claim 54 linked to a suitable carrier.--

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims and specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"